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15 June 1970

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FLOODING IN ROMANIA

May - June 1970

Torrential rainfall in Romania during the months of May and June caused heavy flooding in major areas of economic and agricultural importance to the country. Reportedly, hundreds of people have been killed and thousands left homeless. Television and radio broadcasts as well as newspaper and magazine articles report that the floods have seriously endangered the economy. Although the full extent of the damage is not known, approximately 1 million acres of farmland lie under water. Damage to transportation, housing, and communications is extensive, and Romanian authorities fear an outbreak of epidemics will result from the flooding.

Aid has been offered or given to Romania by the United States, Great Britain, most countries of Western and Eastern Europe and many other countries of the world. Although the Soviets were initially slow in responding to the disaster, the Bucharest Domestic Service reported that a Soviet aircraft recently landed at the Bucharest/Otopeni International Airport with a shipment of supplies provided by the Soviet Red Cross. The largest reported contribution came in early June from Communist China, which gave the Romanians the equivalent of \$400,000 in flood relief.

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Satellite photography [] has provided partial coverage of the flooding in Romania []. Although the floodwaters were subsiding, the photography provides evidence of high waters in central, south-central, and eastern Romania. Areas of reported major damage in western Romania were not covered [].

At the time of the coverage, no major cities appeared to be inundated; however, the high waters observed over the river banks and transportation lines confirm reports of property and crop damage. Since the initial flooding in mid-May, the U.S. Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) has reported that additional rain and snow have caused further flooding. The following graphics illustrate some of the flood damage:

Alba Iulia Area []

An article from the Romanian newspaper Scinteia of 20 May and an article with an accompanying news photograph in The New York Times of 25 May reported extensive damage at Alba Iulia caused by the flooding of the Mures River. Comparative views of the city of 26 September 1969 and 30 May 1970 show that although the floodwaters had subsided, the river had not returned to its normal level. The surrounding terrain indicates that the water had been at a much higher level.

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Page 3Apata Area

Comparative views of the Apata area, just north of the industrial town of Brasov in central Romania, show the extent of the flooding of the Olt River. A section of road is observed under water.

✓ Galati/Braila Area

This graphic shows the reported heavy accumulation of floodwaters near the industrial cities of Galati and Braila in eastern Romania near the USSR border. Although the cities themselves do not appear to be inundated, the areas to the east and south of Galati (inset) contain small towns completely inundated by floodwaters, and portions of a major east-west rail line are partially under water.

Glodeanu-Silistea Area

In this area, southwest of Galati, comparative views show large pools of water left standing by the torrential rainfall.

North of Slatina

High-water marks of the Olt River are discernible immediately north of Slatina in south-central Romania. Backwater pools can be seen where the river overflowed its banks.

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Slatina Area

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The flood-expanded channel of the Olt River near the industrial town of Slatina is shown here.

Turnu Magurele Area

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Flooding is evident in the vicinity of Turnu Magurele near the confluence of the Olt and the Danube Rivers. The location of a road under water is indicated.

Pietrosani Area

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Overflowing of the Danube River is observed in the vicinity of Pietrosani. An area of extensive land and road inundation is visible on the photography.

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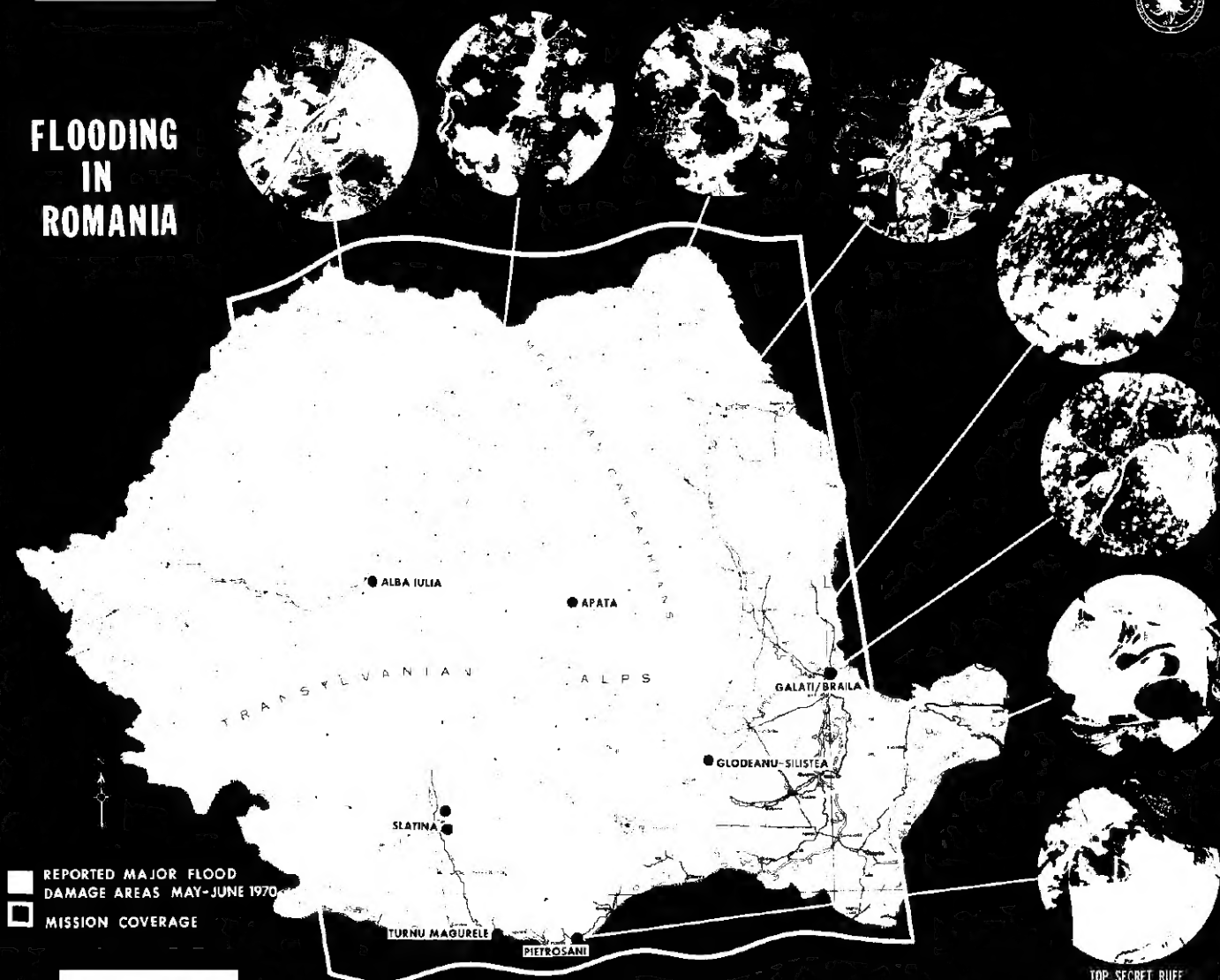
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